Course Description:

This course offers students, as future health care professionals and as health care recipients, opportunities to think philosophically, demonstrate ethical awareness, do ethical reflection, and apply ethical principles in decision-making. Students examine personal, professional, institutional, and societal values as they develop their ethics knowledge base. They identify and examine significant philosophical approaches to moral reasoning and engage in the process of ethical decision making about dilemmas encountered in health care settings. Students become increasingly aware of the linkages between philosophical views, ethics and practice. They are challenged to identify and reflect on the underlying philosophical assumptions and implications of their choices and to appreciate nursing as an ethical practice. Students will recognize the personal and interpersonal tensions inherent in the delivery of health care to individuals with conflicting philosophic views. Selected ethical issues in health care delivery are addressed and students are encouraged to discuss ethical issues encountered in the clinical setting. A special emphasis is placed on justice and healthcare issues faced by members of diverse, vulnerable populations.

Course Outcomes:

1. Discuss moral development across the lifespan.
2. Describe the impact of personal, professional, institutional and societal values on ethical decision-making.
3. Discuss several significant philosophical approaches to moral reasoning (rules, rights, value-maximizing and virtue), including strengths and limitations of each.
4. Use critical thinking skills when applying philosophical theories and approaches to reasoning about cases/situations posing ethical dilemmas, and provide a morally and ethically defensible justification for positions taken and fair and reasonable evaluations of alternative positions (an ethical decision-making framework is used to guide case analyses).
5. Explore the ways in which cultural differences, and individual philosophic views, affect moral decision-making.
6. Examine selected ethical issues arising in the delivery of health care (including end of life care, genetic advancements, organ allocation, etc.).
7. Explore the impact of alternative conceptions of distributive justice as applied to access and allocation of scarce medical resources.
8. Discuss the health care professionals’ responsibilities in minimizing the negative impact of health care delivery on the environment.
9. Identify and use resources to guide the ethical practice of nursing (e.g., ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses).
Teaching Methods: Lecture/discussion
Student presentations
Small group activities
Assigned and suggested readings
Assigned papers

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation  10 points
Nursing Ethics Papers (2@20 points each)  40 points
Final Exam  20 points
Quizzes (6; three scheduled, three unscheduled)  30 points
Total  100 points

The following Grading Scale will be used:

A  94-100   C  77-79
A-  92-93   C-  75-76
B+  89-91   D+  72-74
B  86-88   D  69-71
B-  84-85   F  68 and below
C+  80-83

Required Course Materials:

Summaries of selected ANA Position statements available from www.nursingworld.org
The Ethical and Religious Directives available from www.usccb.org
“Taking the Least of You” available at http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/16/magazine/16tissue.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Selected documents, articles and website materials as assigned

Course Evaluation Expectation:

It is a professional expectation that all students participate in course evaluations to guide ongoing program improvement.

Academic integrity statement:

Academic honesty is an expression of an ethic of interpersonal justice, responsibility and care applicable to Loyola University faculty, students and staff, which demands that the pursuit of knowledge in the university community be carried out with sincerity and integrity.

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml (Undergraduate)
http://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/nursing/pdfs/UndergraduateHandbook.pdf (School of Nursing)
*CLASS POLICIES:*

1. All papers must be typed and submitted in American Psychological Association (APA, 6th edition) format.
2. Failure to submit written assignments on the date they are due will result in the deduction of 35% of the points allocated for the assignment for each 24 hour period it is late.
3. Attendance is a portion of the final grade. Punctuality is expected!
4. Any event of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) will result in a grade of zero (0) for that assignment.
5. Respect for the rights of others, as demonstrated by behavior in class, is expected. Cellular phones or audible pagers must be turned off during class. This includes use of text messaging.
6. Emails may not be answered for up to 3 business days. Please plan accordingly.

Assignments:

**Nursing Ethics Issue paper (Two @ 20 points each)**
In these papers, you will define the topic related to ethics, its background and relevance to nurses and the nursing profession. You will describe the ethical problems or dilemmas that result, using an ethical decision making framework. The paper should include the use of 2-4 relevant resources, appropriately referenced using APA style. It is expected that the length of the paper is 2-3 pages (excluding cover page and reference list), with correct use of grammar, sentence construction, spelling, and evidence of having proof-read the paper.

The first paper will be relevant to a case study on parental decision making regarding diagnosis and treatment of minor children.

The second paper will be relevant to a case study on adult decision making regarding withdrawal of treatment.

**Grading**

- Facts: 1 point
- Identification of ethical issue(s): 3 points
- Relevant ethical framework(s): 3 points
- Articles cited: 2 points
- Recommendation: 3 points
- Analysis and Support: 5 points
- Grammar, style, spelling, etc.: 3 points

**Attendance, Participation, and on-line discussions (10 points)**
- Attendance/Participation in Class: 0.5 points (7 points)
- Class presentations (Group leader; movie summaries, etc.): 3 points

**Quizzes (30 points)**
There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester; three will be scheduled and three will be unscheduled. Unless acceptable arrangements are made prior to the beginning of class, it is expected that the students will take the quiz when it is distributed in class to receive full credit.

**Final Exam (20)**
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Week 8  March 13, 2014
Topic  Adult Health Issues
Read:  ERDs pages 14-22
Assignment:  Quiz on the Readings

Week 9  March 20, 2014
Topic  End of Life
Read:  Text: Chapter 9

Week 10  March 27, 2014
Topic  End of Life
Read:  ERDs pages 29-33
Assignments  Nursing Ethics paper Due: “What Broke My Father’s Heart”

Week 11  April 3, 2014
Topic  Elder Issues
Read:  Text: Chapter 8

Week 12  April 10, 2014
Topic  Psychiatric/Mental Health Issues
Read:  Text: Chapter 10

Week 13  April 17, 2014
Topic  Ethics in Professional Practice: Ethics in Organization and Leadership
Read:  Text: Chapter 3, 12
ERDs, Pages 34-38
Assignments  Quiz on the Readings

Week 14  April 24, 2014:  Online
Topic:  Public Health Nursing
Read:  Chapter 11, pages 354 to 371

Final Exam  Online; available April 28th to May 2nd